

KAINAI INDUSTRIES

How? Why? What?

The Minister of Industries is now in a position to...
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How? Why? What?

The History of Kainai Industries up to now is relatively simple. A group of Indians, spear headed by Fr. Denis Chatien, got together with the Government and purposed that they might have a solution to the high Welfare rate and over population of the Blood Reserve. Their next step was set for some kind of arrangement with Haico Manufacturing of Lethbridge to set up an operation on the Reserve.

This arrangement was simple, the Band received a grant from the Federal Government to build the building and all the machinery within. Haico paid the operation costs.

As all big businesses it took awhile to come from the drawing board to actual fact. But it wasn't too long before it was in operation.

The benefits the Indians receive from the Industries is enormous, but not only the monetary side of it, but a chance for the Indian to identify himself with something in a society that has forced him to lose most of culture.

At first the individual worker will abuse this plant and not realize the full value of this plant. But who can blame us, this sort of idea is completely alien to them. But only time will tell, because the Indian finally has a chance to progress and but forced to progress.

KAINAI INDUSTRIES

Well, what I like about this place is it is good money for a guy after he's been here for sometime. And another thing, it's pretty good that the Red Crow Development and the Haico got together to put up Kainai Industries. I sure hope the Blood Indians will be running it in the future. I haven't been on for a week, but I'm already starting to know how to go about where I was working. It's a good thing that you train somebody that is just starting. So a guy will know what to expect, also the safety films you show us. I think Roy Fox is doing a good job and the rest of the Indians working here.

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Kainai Industries is a joint business venture with Haico Industries, the sales being handled by Schwartz Agencies of Lethbridge, at present all employees are going through a training program, the trainees are at the Kainai Industries plant, where they are going through an on the job training. Before all trainees were trained in Haico Industries in Lethbridge.

Kainai Industries was brought about because of the housing shortage on the Reserve, the economy was given a boost because of the jobs created by the plant.

The people working at the plant can hold their heads up because they are earning their money rather than being in the stigma of Welfare recipients.

All in all, the plant employees are holding onto their jobs, but there are a few being replaced by the new Trainees.

The ones that are being replaced have one major problem, and that is "ALCOHOL", but there is a program that is combatting alcohol problems and it is called Social Development. These Social Development people are not working for Kainai Industries, but rather for the surrounding area.

Kainai Industries is ideally located, being at the central part of the Reserve.

Hopefully, the people on the Reserve feel they will take over the plant in the near future, however that remains to be seen.

KAINAI INDUSTRIES

So far I've been getting along with the supervisor at the plant, but the thing is tools, about tapes, I think it is a good idea to pay for your own tapes.

Waste is important I think we should use up the material not waste them. It is hard for the Industries, they cost money.

Another thing is that us trainees need help on things in the plant, I think if the supervisor or foreman sees a guy doing the wrong thing, I think he should go over and show him how to do it the right way. A lot of us use our own ideas, I think if we talk it over with the supervisor it might help the plant.

KAINAI INDUSTRIES

Now the Industries is going pretty good for the men of the Reserve. So why not start some kind of work for the women of the Reserve, too.

P.S. And thanks to the people that made all this possible.

KAINAI INDUSTRIES

I would like to refer to the training program that we are on. Like some guys would like to stay on a job for two days. And go on another job, that way he will have a better knowledge of one job, and then take another. The reason I said this I heard the boys saying it, so I thought I will mention it.

KAINAI INDUSTRIES

I like working with everybody. I think the boys here at the plant are doing fine and it seems we are doing alright with them. I am doing my best with whatever skill I have.

I had been wondering what it was like to be working here at Kainai Industries and now I found out. It's up to me to do my utmost ability. Whatever I am told is up to me to listen and I fully cooperate with my lead man or Boss. So, I think I am doing alright so far no complaints. You have a Boss and we listen so that's it.

KAINAI INDUSTRIES

Here at Kainai Industries it's really lucky for the Blood Indians to have. I think the main purpose of having this plant is to get the Indian's jobs, instead of them going out of the Reserve to get jobs, which is quite difficult.

Well I hope the workers here at the Plant should put on a team effort to make the plant in tip top condition, instead of putting it in a hole, and I heard that the plant is not making as much houses as they should.

And for me where I am working, I think my lead man is not so strict as the one in Haico, here at the plant I mostly stand around doing nothing, the same with my lead man. I think I should be put in another place where I'll be busy instead of doing nothing. I'm not getting paid just to stand around. I'm not saying that I just stand around all day, we pull out houses, when we finish doing that, that is when we usually don't do nothing.

Kainai Industries

I think the plant here on the Reserve is a great thing for the people on the reserve. Not only through the Band, but of each person that is working here. Families used to depend on Welfare most of the time. Now, most men are willing to work, because it's right on the Reserve.

Before we had to go out off the Reserve to find a job. We got low wages most of the time, because we were unskilled. Now with this training program helps us know what to do when we go out on the line.

One of the problems we have when we are working off the Reserve, is we kind of start off slow. Because we don't know the person working next to you. But here you know the people and get along more easily with them.

This plant is not so strict, it just operates like most other plants that I have worked in. In fact I think it is a little lenient on us. So, I have enjoyed my first 2 days here.

Why do Indians Have Such A Great Drinking Problem?

Probably the greatest problem facing Native people today is Alcoholism. It can be said that this is the root to all, or most of their problems. This can be traced back to two things.

First of all the Indian is in a transitional state straddling two cultures with a foot in each. A person in this condition is bound to have trouble coping with life. Until he adjusts to his new environment he cannot be happy. The Indian was not originally what he is today. He was a nomadic hunter following the herds of buffalo that he lived off. The coming of civilization has forced him to settle down and live as non-Indians do. This problem of adjusting to the new environment has been a great problem. Alcoholism seems to be an escape route.

Secondly alcohol is a relatively new thing to the Indian. Originally Indians were forbidden to drink until just a few years ago when they were given liquor rights. They have not yet learned how to drink socially yet. With alcoholism education and experience, the Indian will eventually learn to handle his liquor.

The alcohol problem among Indians is a different problem which can only be solved through; integration into the white society and, time and experience. The younger generation has almost been completely integrated and will probably not have as great a problem with this as the present generation.

KAINAI INDUSTRIES

What I think of the Kainai Industries. It's a project for the Blood Indians on the Reserve, something for them to look forward to.

For myself, I am just starting the experience on the Industries. I got little experience, but I like to learn more. I work on lot of construction, but this Industries is something to look forward to.

I am not quite well educated, but I like to try and learn. I got to know how the supervisor operates the supervising in the Industries. I got to know them real good, so I can get along. Now, I am roofing and I like it, but I like to become a electrician or plumber. I would like to associate with everybody in the Industries if I could and I take orders too.

I never was fired of a job yet and I am a steady worker. There is another thing to look forward about the training program, where they teach you about the Industries and how it operates. I have been away for 12 years and I worked on a project like Metal factories and Housing constructions, but now I am home for good on my Reserve and I like to get ahead and I like to learn more.

KAINAI INDUSTRIES

The plant is important to the Reserve due to the fact that it is a source of steady employment to these that wish to hold on to a good job. It gives a person a chance to do a job regardless of his education, as long as he can prove that he can do a job to the best of his ability. Also there is no racial discrimination because the employees are mostly all Indians.

I've noticed that there is a group of men always looking for a job. In the near future I hope the plant would go into two shifts. This would make jobs for more men, also it would double our product. Each shift could take two weeks of day and two weeks of night work.

The men don't make very much money, if the employees could make some kind of deal where as, they could rent a house, there after a few years own it. I'm sure we'd have a lot of eager workers knowing they would own a house. That is, if the rent is cheap enough.

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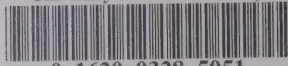
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